



**U.S. Department of Justice**

*United States Attorney  
Northern District of New York*

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February 2, 2010

**NEWS RELEASE**

United States Attorney Richard S. Hartunian announced that EDWARD WEHRENBURG, JR. age 48, of Utica, New York, pled guilty in federal court today to three federal child exploitation charges.

WEHRENBURG, JR. entered guilty pleas before United States District Judge Hon. David N. Hurd to three federal felonies involving the distribution, receipt, and possession of child pornography using an Internet peer to peer file sharing program known as Ares.

As a part of his guilty plea, WEHRENBURG, JR. admitted that when officers entered his residence to investigate allegations that he had been involved in the sexual abuse of a minor, his computer was running and actively uploading and downloading video files containing child pornography, and that he had amassed a collection of child pornography going back as far as 2003.

WEHRENBURG, JR. faces a mandatory minimum sentence of 5 years, and a maximum sentence of 20 years on the distribution and receipt convictions, and a maximum sentence of 10 years on the possession conviction. He also faces fines of up to \$250,000 on each charge, and at least 5 years of supervised release following his term of imprisonment. In addition, and by federal law, WEHRENBURG, JR. will be required to register as a sex offender. His sentencing is scheduled for Thursday, June 10, 2010, before United States District Judge, Hon. David N. Hurd, in Utica, New York.

WEHRENBURG'S arrest was the result of an investigation by the Oneida County Child Advocacy Center and the Utica, New York Police Department. The federal prosecution is being handled by Assistant U.S. Attorney Lisa Fletcher, who can be reached at 448-0672.